

THE MORNING NEWS

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Enjoy the spirit of the season at Seroe Preto, City of Lights



Seroe Preto City of Lights

ORANJESTAD -- One of Aruba's most delightful seasonal traditions is now on display in San Nicolas, the Seroe Preto City of Lights. A volunteer effort by the Youth Union of Seroe Preto, the stunning lighting display features a different theme each year. Donations both financial and material, from local businesses and the community, make it possible. It can be found on the road to Lourdes Grotto. There is a point where the road dramatically forks; take the left hand fork to reach the City of Lights, right for the grotto.

This beloved aspect of Christmas on Aruba received an important helping hand last spring from Elmar N.V., Aruba's official distributors of electricity, and SETAR N.V., the national telecommunications company. The company donated and installed the solar paneling that now powers the display, which would normally cost several thousand Aruban florins to keep alight each night.

The charming Seroe Preto this year features Fort Zoutman and the graceful, swooping spires of an idealized cathedral. Particularly popu-

lar on the weekends, the grounds will be scattered with beverage and snack vendors and local bands will perform until late. During the week, in the early hours just after sunset, visitors will find it a tranquil place for quiet contemplation and some lovely photo ops.

Each of the principal structures has been built on separate limestone formations, connected by a concrete bridge. Visitors can walk among the displays, accessible by a equally decorated stairway. Don't miss taking a walk through the gap between the two cliffs, to be rewarded by a poignant nativity scene somewhat concealed behind the main display.

The City of Lights will stand until Epiphany, or Three Kings Day, January 6. All are invited to enjoy this community effort any night of the week, without charge. On that final night, the surrounding community stages a festive party, with holiday performers turning over the stage to traditional carnival bands at midnight, as all say a final goodbye to the old year and herald in the carnival season.

By Rosalie Klein



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Obama holds out hope for immigration reform in 2014

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama spent much of Friday's lengthy press conference looking back at 2013, but he often returned to an issue he believes has a silver lining for the New Year: immigration.

Calling comprehensive immigration reform "the biggest

thing that I wanted to get done this year," Obama said he saw potential for a major breakthrough in the months ahead, and suggested House Speaker John Boehner might be ready to move on a historic immigration overhaul.

"There are indications in the House that even though it

did not get completed this year, that there is a commitment on the part of this speaker to try to move forward legislation early next year," the president told reporters at the White House.

Continued on pg 6

Aruba Marriott displays Life-Size Gingerbread House during the holidays



First Life-Size Gingerbread House at Aruba Marriott with guests posing (see story on pg 2)

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Aruba Marriott displays Life-Size Gingerbread House during the holidays



Assorted candies used for the gingerbread house



The rooftop made of popcorn

PALM BEACH - An annual holiday tradition at the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino is the gingerbread display in the resort lobby. This year Executive Sous Chef Miguel and Sous Chef Charles took it up a notch and created a life-size gingerbread house for guests to enjoy. Constructed with 100 pound of gingerbread dough, 50 pound of white icing, 65 pound of assorted candy (marshmallows, gummy bears, liquorish, candy sticks,

popcorn and cookies), the 80 sq ft gingerbread house creates a magical entrance for guests and associates.

It took Sous Chef Charles and his team three working days to create the gingerbread bricks and icing from scratch, to assemble and decorate the house.

The Aruba Marriott Resort invites everyone to pass by and take a photo with the life size gingerbread house. Happy Holidays!

Aruba Bank and SAC will partner for landmark Carnival 60



ORANJESTAD -- 2014 will be the year of Aruba's Diamond Jubilee Carnival, an eagerly anticipated landmark of the island's most important annual event. It will also be a very long carnival season, officially opening on January 11 with the Torch Parade. The final Grand Carnival Parades in San Nicolas and Oranjestad will be the first weekend of March.

This very long season will herald an exception number of events, as carnival is more than just parades, but musical festivals and contests, pageants to elect the carnival royalty of queens, princes and jesters, along with many major "jump-ups," festive gatherings of the community with music and revelry.

Stichting Arubaanse Carnaval, or SAC, is the non-profit foundation that administrates such events. SAC President Tecla Kelly-Hernandez and Executive Director of Aruba Bank, Natalie Simmons, welcomed island media to the bank's Camacuri branch to announce that Aruba Bank is partnering with SAC as a major sponsor of Carnival 60.

Ms. Simmons expressed, on behalf of the bank, "We are very pleased and proud to be an official principal patron of Aruba's Diamond Jubilee Carnival. Carnival is the most important cultural manifestation on the island's annual calen-

dar, and we expect this year to be one of the most impressive

collection of events associated with it, so far."

By Rosalie Klein

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Min. Hooyboer-Winklaar: Necessary reforms in education will benefit all



ORANJESTAD -- According to Minister of Education, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, "Education is the foundation that carries a country and that gives it the ability to develop. Without an optimal system of education, a society does not make progress." The Minister is cognizant of the many positive aspects of our educational system. But, there are also areas for reform in order to produce the results we expect of our education.

"It is essential that we get a good look at the effectiveness of our academic tests, the effectiveness of our curriculum, on the methods and causes of problems that may be hindering students from developing better in our educational system, says the Minister.

The Minister remarked further... "It is important that student evaluations measure how much our students know about the subject being given at school, but also what is

their knowledge of other important matters analytically, rationally and logically. This is the ability they need to convert academic knowledge into general knowledge into the work force."

Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar indicated that she believes in a system of education not only for those who have no problems to learn but one applicable to and for all. There is an obligation to provide education for all children, especially those who special problems, such as Autism, Dyslexia, social-emotional problems and children with visual or audio problems."

This will become the focus of attention in this next period of government. Next year they will continue with the attention areas to stipulate the changes and reforms that must take place to benefit both students and teachers of our schools.

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Free Zone Aruba welcomes Curoil (Aruba) Freezone NV



ORANJESTAD -- Free Zone Aruba is very proud to welcome Curacao Oil NV (Curoil) to the Aruban free zone. Curoil (Aruba) Freezone NV is the first company that offers bunkering services to national and international vessels in Aruba. Their services are available in the Oranjestad and Barcadera harbor.

Besides supplying fuel to Curacao and Bonaire they expanded their operations to Aruba. Curoil will be active on- and offshore. They are supplying a full range of fuels and lubricants from its 6,854dwt double-hulled tanker Zeta I.

Bunkering in Aruba will

provide customers with end-to-end bunker and lubricant supply and related services. Curoil Aruba will supply high quality bunker fuels; IFO 380, 180 and MGO (high and low sulphur).

Mr. Yamil Lasten, Managing Director of Curoil commented: "We are very excited with this market expansion and we remain committed to offer our customers the same high level of service and high quality of products we are offering in the current markets. Our services are available 24/7 and 365 days a year; having our own vessel and control over the supply chain, we are able to provide our

customers with the highest quality fuels in a short turn-around time."

Since 1985 Curoil supplies fuel on the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to airports, utility companies, gas stations and vessels in the harbors and also offshore. Their main oil and gas supplier is the Curaçao refinery Isla NV with capacity of 320,000 barrels a day. Curoil operates under international standards of Shell Airport Operations Procedures and under international ISO-Certified standards.

Curoil (Aruba) Freezone NV received the operations license to operate in the Aruba free zone on December 16, 2013.

Free Zone Aruba (FZA) NV's Managing Director Mr. Greg Peterson commented: "We are very happy to welcome this new free zone company that will have added value to the further development of Aruba as the Green Gateway".

Photo depicts: Mr. Yamil Lasten, Managing Director of Curoil and Mr. Greg Peterson, Managing Director of Free Zone Aruba (FZA) NV.

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Last year, I sent this message and because of the many reactions I received I am repeating it this year!

Yes, it is the time to be jolly... it is Christmas time when everyone is bouncing around, shopping and decorating and singing. The thought of eating ham, turkey, delicious cakes and drinking exotic drinks - and of meeting with family and friends excite most of us.

Even children are ecstatic about Christmas because for them it means getting new things and lovely toys and other gifts.

But, you'll be amazed to discover that a great number of people simply abhor the yuletide season! They wish that Christmas would never come or that it would blow away with the wind. They can't stand the singing of the "Aguinaldos" (traditional Aruban Christmas music), nor can they stand the hustle and bustle of people shopping for gifts and making merry.

Why is this you ask? Well, these people have great difficulty coping with the loss of some loved one who will not be with them for Christmas! Someone who always shared their Christmases in the past, the person with whom they exchanged gifts and laughter at Christmas is no longer



Pointers to Ponder?

Tony A.D. Green

www.people-self-development.com

Four Sure Ways to be Happy at Christmas time!

with them. It may be that the person died, or that the person walked out of their life through a divorce or separation.

So, Christmas time is an extremely sad time for them, and they succumb to depression.

Psychologists report an increase in clients suffering from depression and/or suicidal thinking at this time of the year. Many people who have lost someone have real difficulty dealing with their emotions at Christmas time. The memory of the missing person brings gloom rather than gladness...and they don't know how to cope with the loss at Christmas time!

If this is you or someone you know, what should you do? Firstly, you must **rebuke** any and all feelings of **guilt**. Feeling guilty for something over which you had no con-



trol will cripple your ability to see things clearly and ruin your emotions. Alright, that person you loved and cared for walked out of your life; and perhaps you had some fault in the process, but it is now time to get on with your life. Stop blaming yourself, stop musing over the mistakes made, stop feeling guilty and get up and go to the next level! Remember, no matter how bad the situation was, or how ugly you feel about it all, you can always begin again! Make this Christmas your new beginning, rather than bemoaning the past!

Or, maybe there is that person you loved that died. There is nothing you can do to change that. Death is final. Instead of sobbing, and sadness, try singing. You can be sure that that person would want you to be happy.

Secondly, **release** all sad

emotions. Empty your bucket of tears. This is particularly helpful and therapeutic if you have not really cried over your loss. Get alone somewhere or with one person you trust and feel really comfortable with and let your feelings just hang out...cry, cry, and cry, and empty your bucket. Then, wipe off those tears and move on to a new you without the burden of grief you've been carrying.

Thirdly, **reach out** to

someone in need. Stop looking in and look around you for someone who has a need that you can meet. Maybe it is someone who needs some food, or who needs a hand with a difficult chore around the house, or who needs someone to listen to his/her sad experience so they can empty their bucket of tears. When you reach out to others something magical and mysterious happens to you. You gain a brand new perspective on your life and you discover that your worth is far more than you estimated!

Your loneliness and feelings of depression disappear and you find new strength to go on.

And, there is one final thing that you must do, and that is; **receive Jesus**, put your faith and trust in the 'reason for the season'... Jesus Christ, for whom we celebrate this wonderful season of the year. It is Jesus who came to mankind on Christmas day to bring us salvation and peace and joy. Lean on Him and you will be granted His peace and joy! After all, Christmas is about Jesus!

Here again are the four steps to take to enjoy your Christmas: **rebuke** all guilt, release sad emotions, reach out to someone, and receive Jesus!

Determine today that you will get up and begin again... with Jesus, the greatest Christmas Gift ever given! Merry Christmas!

If this article was helpful, do let me know: tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com, Thanks.



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Customs... an important partner in Aruba's tourism



ORANJESTAD -- Last Wednesday, CEO of Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes and a team of ATA visited the Customs Service. There they held a presentation and gave special recognition to our Customs Service because of the significant role they play in our tourism industry. The Customs Service make an important contribution to the security of our country. They play an essential role with the first impression they give to tourists who arrive on our island.

During the presentation of

recognition, representatives of ATA gave information relative to tourism. Among others, they informed on the actual tendencies in the industry as well as what may be expected in the coming year.

Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes appealed to our Customs personnel to be prepared for the coming high season. She focused on the importance of always providing the best of service and how important it is nowadays to excel as we compare ourselves with other destinations. As an important partner in our tourism industry ATA expects the Customs



Department to continue supporting us and to together reach the goals we anticipate for Aruba's tourism.

ATA thanked all Customs personnel for their dedication. She appealed to all to continue offering excellent service. This is the first impression that our visitors receive when they arrive here. That first impression is very important.

There are other partners who play an important role in

our tourism, but ATA felt the need to put emphasis on the Customs and Immigration Service this year. Thanks to

all other partners who daily contribute to our important tourism industry!



Obama holds out hope for immigration reform in 2014

Continued from pg 1

"And the fact that it didn't hit the timeline that I'd prefer is obviously frustrating, but it's not something that I end up brooding a lot about," he added.

Obama said he hoped the sweeping bipartisan immigration bill that passed the Senate this year could soon form the basis for reform.

"Let's see if we can break through the politics on this," he said.

Last June the Senate passed the most comprehensive rewrite of US immigration laws in a generation. The landmark bipartisan legislation would provide \$46 billion in border security and overhaul the nation's visa system to allow more high-tech and low-skilled workers.

But House conservatives torpedoed it, arguing that the Senate plan of allowing the 11 million people living in the shadows to apply for US citizenship was tantamount to amnesty for illegal immigrants.

While Boehner said the House would never vote on the Senate measure, he has signalled his support for a "step-by-step" approach to reform.

And House Republican Tom Cole, a close Boehner ally, opened the door even further, telling The Hill's Friday newspaper that Boehner may soon allow a vote on the four separate measures on immigration reform and border security that have already passed through the House Judiciary Committee.

Boehner and his Republican Party are under heavy pressure ahead of 2016 presidential elections to improve their standing among Hispanic voters for whom immigration is a cherished political goal.

Obama shrugs off suggestions of worst year in office

Obama shrugged off suggestions that 2013 has been his worst year in office but conceded frustration at the failure of Congress to tighten gun regulations.

He acknowledged that he was stung by the failure to push through Congress measures to combat gun violence, such as background checks for weapons purchases, in the wake of the December 2012 massacre of 20 children and six school workers at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

"There are areas where there have obviously been

frustrations where I wished Congress had moved more aggressively," Obama said.

"Not passing background checks in the wake of Newtown is something that I continue to believe was a mistake," Obama said.

But Obama credited the debate following the Sandy Hook massacre with pushing states to "increase gun safety and to make sure that we don't see tragedies like this happen again."

However, numerous states have also loosened gun rules in the wake of Newtown in a backlash led by the National Rifle Association, the powerful pro-gun pressure group.

In a final news conference before flying to Hawaii for the Christmas holidays, Obama said that "we have had ups and we have had downs" throughout his five years in the White House.

"I think this room has probably recorded at least 15 near-death experiences," Obama said when asked if 2013 was his worst year.

With surveys showing voter approval of him at below 50 percent in some of the lowest marks of his presidency, Obama said: "If you're measuring this by polls, my polls have gone up and down all throughout the course of my career. I mean, if I was interested in polling, I wouldn't have run for president."

Colombian peace talks end year with praise for progress

HAVANA (AFP) - Negotiators concluded the year's last round of Colombian peace talks Friday with the chief government representative praising the progress made as "important and hopeful."

"Never before have we advanced so much in terms of agreements with the FARC as we have on this occasion," said Humberto de la Calle, the lead government negotiator.

"With all responsibility and without raising false hopes, I can say that the results achieved so far in the talks with the FARC are important and hopeful," he said.

The government of President Juan Manuel Santos has been in peace talks with the FARC, the country's largest leftist rebel group, since November 2012.

They have reached con-

sensus on two issues -- rural development and the political reintegration of demobilized rebels -- but tough issues remain, including disarming the guerrillas.

The talks are aimed at ending a near 50-year-old insurgency, Latin America's longest. Three previous attempts at a negotiated settlement of the conflict failed.

But de la Calle said the progress made so far "shows us that the dream of a country at peace is possible. It shows us that it is possible to reach the end of the conflict."

The chief FARC negotiator, Ivan Marquez, used his remarks at the close of the week's talks to push for a constituent assembly to approve any agreement, a proposal the government has rejected.



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NYC protest demands justice for Indian housekeeper

NEW YORK (AFP) - Domestic workers protested outside the Indian consulate in New York on Friday, calling for justice for a housekeeper allegedly mistreated by a Indian diplomat and demanding an end to slavery.

More than 30 workers and their allies took part in the spirited but peaceful protest on a sidewalk outside the mansion house used by the Indian government in New York.

They called on the Indian government to recognize that the housekeeper had been "verbally abused" and called on all countries to create minimum legal standards of work for maids. India on Friday angrily brushed aside fresh efforts by the United States to defuse the row over the December 12 arrest of Devyani Khobragade, a deputy consul general in New York.

She was taken into custody and released on bail for allegedly defrauding a visa application, lying to US officials and underpaying her housekeeper.

Revelations that she was stripped by US Marshals and subjected to a body search have caused outrage in India, whose government wants Washington to drop the case and offer an apology.

The protesters condemned that Khobragade was strip-searched, but said it was a disgrace that, in one of the richest cities in the world, a housekeeper was paid as little as \$3.31 an hour.

N.Korea warns of 'merciless' strike against South

SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea has threatened a "merciless" strike against the South after activists burned effigies of the ruling Kim dynasty on the second anniversary of the death of former leader Kim Jong-Il, officials said Friday.

The warning was contained in a message sent Thursday by the secretariat of the National Defence Commission, the North's highest military body, through a military hotline, the South's defence ministry said.

In rallies on Tuesday to mark the death anniversary of Kim Jong-Il, South Korean conservative groups burned effigies of young North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un, his late father and grandfather.

The North said the rallies had insulted the "highest dignity" of its leadership, and threatened to take "merciless" retaliatory acts without prior warning, the defence ministry said.

The North's threat comes at a time of growing concern over the regime's stability after last week's execution of Jang Song-Thaek, a high-level official who was the uncle and former political mentor of Kim Jong-Un.

Seoul and Washington have warned of possible provocative acts by the nuclear-armed North.

North Korea has a long history of bellicose rhetoric, regularly threatening strikes against South Korea.

Tensions between the two Koreas had appeared to cool down after soaring in February, when the North carried out its third underground nuclear test in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions.

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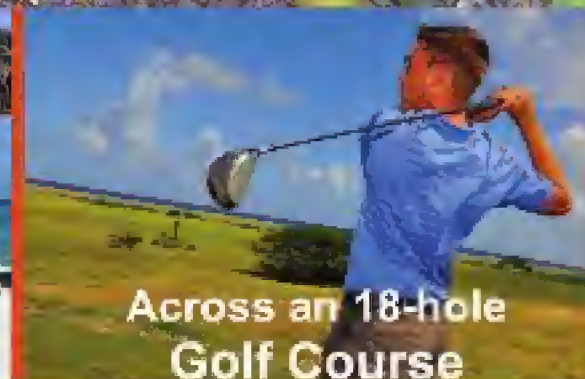
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Putin pardons Khodorkovsky after 10 years in jail

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russia's most famous prisoner and Kremlin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky on Friday reportedly walked out of jail after spending more than 10 years behind bars, following a surprise pardon by President Vladimir Putin.

Putin pardoned Russia's former richest man on Friday, a day after stunning the country by saying the ex-tycoon asked for clemency on humanitarian grounds as his mother was ill.

What role Khodorkovsky will play in Russia after his re-

lease is unclear, but it is appears certain that Putin would never had allowed his freedom if he was seen as a threat.

The former chief of the Yukos oil company had repeatedly said he would not ask Putin for a pardon because it would be tantamount to admitting guilt.

The Kommersant broadsheet, citing unnamed sources, said on Friday Khodorkovsky had decided to seek a pardon after a recent meeting with representatives of Russia's security services, who had raised

the menace of a third trial against him.

Economists and political analysts put the release down to Kremlin's bid to improve its dismal rights record and international image ahead of the Winter Olympic Games that Russia is hosting in Sochi in February.

Supporters have said that Khodorkovsky had been thrown into jail and found guilty in two separate trials for daring to finance opposition to the Russian strongman.

He was snatched off his cor-

porate plane in 2003 soon after Putin warned oligarchs against meddling in politics. He has been held in detention ever since.

He and his business partner Platon Lebedev were convicted of fraud and tax evasion in 2005. Khodorkovsky was convicted of embezzlement in a second trial in 2010 and had been due for release in August.

While German Chancellor Angela Merkel hailed the role played "behind the scenes" by former German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in

helping to secure the release of Khodorkovsky.

Genscher, who served as Germany's top diplomat from 1974 to 1993, said he welcomed the pardon by Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom he said he had met twice to discuss the Khodorkovsky case.

Genscher, who arranged the flight on a private jet from Russia and picked Khodorkovsky up at the airport in Berlin, told news website Spiegel Online that Khodorkovsky was doing well under the circumstances.



2,000 extra steps a day cuts cardiovascular risk by 8 percent



PARIS (AFP) - People with a glucose-tolerance problem -- a driver of diabetes and cardiovascular disease -- can cut the risk of heart attack or stroke by simply walking an additional 2,000 steps per day, a study said on Friday.

The experiment gathered more than 9,300 adults in 40 countries with so-called impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) who had also been diagnosed with cardiovascular disease or were considered at risk from it.

They all received a "lifestyle modification programme," advising them of the benefits of reducing body weight and dietary fat and doing regular exercise.

They were also issued with pedometers, which clocked up how many paces they walked each week, both at the start of the experiment and 12 months later.

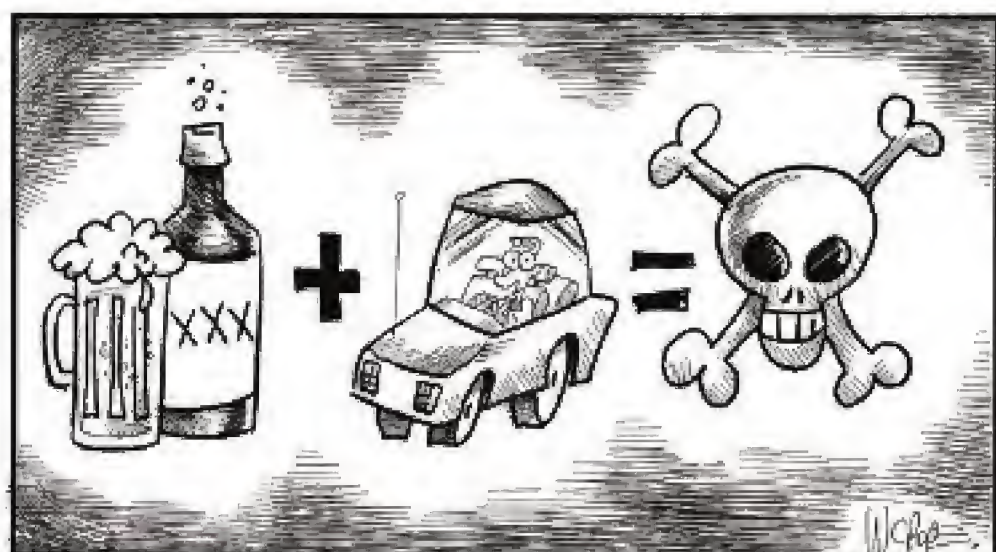
Volunteers who added 2,000

steps -- around 20 minutes of moderate walking -- to their existing daily schedule reduced the cardiovascular risk by eight percent by the time of the study ended, six years later.

The study, published in *The Lancet*, said IGT affects about 344 million people, or 7.9 percent of the world's adult population -- a tally expected to rise to 472 million (8.4 percent) by 2030.

"People with IGT have a greatly increased risk of cardiovascular disease", study leader Thomas Yates from the University of Leicester, central England, said in a press release.

"While several studies have suggested that physical activity is beneficially linked to health in those with IGT, this is the first study to specifically quantify the extent to which change in walking behaviour can modify the risk."





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Report finds contamination in most chicken sold in US

NEW YORK (AFP) - Almost all of the raw chicken sold in the US contains potentially harmful bacteria such as salmonella and E. coli, according to an analysis by Consumer Reports published Thursday.

The analysis found that chicken from the four largest brands (Perdue, Pilgrim's, Sanderson Farms, Tyson) "contained worrisome amounts of bacteria" and that more than half the chicken breasts were tainted with fecal contaminants that can cause blood and urinary-tract infections.

The research analyzed chicken from major brands, including Wal-Mart Stores,

Whole Foods, Kroger and Trader Joe's.

The magazine's study was already underway this fall when there was an outbreak of salmonella that government investigators linked to chicken sold by three Foster Farm plants. In that case, some 389 people were infected, the magazine said.

The magazine said more than 48 million people fall sick each year due to food tainted with salmonella, campylobacter, E. coli, and other contaminants, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that "more deaths were attributed to poultry than to any other commodity."

The CDC has studied outbreaks from 1998 to 2008.

Bacteria from contaminated chicken is also problematic because it can spread easily through "cross-contamination" in the kitchen if consumers touch other surfaces, the magazine said.

Recommendations for averting contamination include washing one's hands immediately after touching raw chicken and cooking the chicken to an internal temperature of at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Officials with the US Department of Agriculture did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Australia deli sued over 'semen' in bottled water

SYDNEY (AFP) - An Australian woman is suing a deli after drinking bottled water that allegedly contained semen, lawyers said Friday, with claims that DNA showed it matched the owner of the business.

Alicia Cooper has filed a writ of summons in the District Court of Western Australia against the owner, who no longer runs the business, according to media reports that were confirmed by Slater and Gordon, the legal firm representing Cooper.

Among its accusations the writ states the owner knowingly placed the sperm in the bottled water and allowed its sale.

"Instantly I knew something was not right, I just knew," Cooper, who is seeking damages and medical expenses for the stress and depression suffered from drinking the water, told Fairfax Media.

After Cooper lodged a complaint about the water with the health department in the city of Stirling, a sample was col-

lected for testing and the results revealed it contained spermatozoa, the Fairfax report said.

A DNA sample was taken from the owner and testing confirmed his sample was a profile match for the sperm in the water.

Lawyers said the civil action was lodged after no criminal charges were laid. Fairfax quoted West Australian police as saying their legal advice was that "this incident, although serious, did not constitute a criminal offence".

Ryan O'Neal wins trial over ex-lover's Warhol painting

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A US jury on Thursday found in favor of veteran actor Ryan O'Neal in a dispute over an Andy Warhol painting of his ex-lover Farrah Fawcett, saying it rightfully belonged to him.

The six-man, six-woman panel rejected a claim by the University of Texas, where the late "Charlie's Angels" star went to college, that she left the valuable portrait to her alma mater.

The actor's sons Redmond and Patrick welcomed the verdict, which came after two days of jury deliberations.

Their father was not in court. Patrick, whose mother is actress Leigh Taylor-Young, said he could not attend because he had had minor cancer surgery on one cheek.

Twenty-eight year-old Redmond, O'Neal and Fawcett's only child together, said he believed his mother had helped steer the jury in the right direction.

The university's lawyer David Beck voiced disappointment, and remained tight-lipped about a possible appeal. He noted the length of deliberations and the non-unanimous decision; the jury voted 9 to 3 in O'Neal's favor.

The university sued O'Neal after the painting was spotted in the actor's home during an episode of reality TV show "Ryan and Tatum: The O'Neals."

It said Fawcett bequeathed all her artwork to her alma mater when she died, and insisted the Warhol painting should be displayed in a museum next to a near-identical portrait also of the late actress, also created in 1980.

O'Neal's lawyers said during the two-week trial that Warhol gave one portrait to Fawcett and the other to O'Neal.

While the university said the portrait is worth about \$12 million, O'Neal's lawyer Martin Singer estimated its value at just under \$1 million, adding: "The University of Texas should have been satisfied with what they got."



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The "hipper" and elegant new digs offer beautiful views, but Mama Luisa's magical touch in the kitchen is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. She can be counted on to be conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations. As Varela says, "My mom loves and lives to cook. Even when she is not at work

in the restaurant, she is experimenting with new dishes all day at home.

She is the Queen of the Kitchen."

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Mama Luisa hard at work in the kitchen

snapper, with Mama Luisa's delectable salsa criollo. Don't miss the specialty of the house, a favorite local delicacy, Keshi Yena - "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It is satisfying and particularly memorable. Regional side dishes and some of Mama's secret recipe preparation of banana hasa and creamy potatoes provide a deliciously picturesque meal.

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm

Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to go, reasonably priced and easily accessible. A full menu can be seen on their website, <http://www.thequeensaruba.com>.

Aside from an extensive regular menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season, and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't be shy about asking for something that may not be on the menu, as they are always eager to please.

The Queen's is open daily from 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, offering both indoor and outdoor dining.



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BlackBerry loss widens, unveils tie-up with Foxconn



OTTAWA (AFP) - BlackBerry said Friday it fell deeper into the red in the past quarter as the struggling smartphone maker unveiled a manufacturing partnership with Taiwan-based Foxconn and a revamped organizational structure.

The Canadian firm reported a massive \$4.4 billion loss in its third quarter, four times higher than in the previous quarter, as smartphone sales slumped by half.

The company also unveiled a five-year partnership with Foxconn, described as "the world's largest manufacturer of

electronic products and components."

Foxconn will jointly develop and manufacture a number of new devices and help manage inven-

tory -- an area where BlackBerry has struggled.

Foxconn, the marketing name for Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., is also a main supplier of one of BlackBerry's chief rivals -- Apple.

The new partnership, according to BlackBerry, demonstrates its long-term commitment to selling smartphones, after speculation that it might abandon device sales to focus on software and services.

BlackBerry has made repeated public pleas over the past year for customers to stick with it amid forecasts of

its pending demise.

The Waterloo, Ontario-based firm attributed the extent of its quarterly loss to a \$4.6 billion charge for an inventory write-down and other one-time costs.

But the company is also seeing plummeting sales, with third quarter revenues of just \$1.2 billion, 56 percent lower than a year earlier.

The results were "worse than depressed expectations," said RBC Capital Markets analyst Marc Sue.

The company sold just 1.9 million smartphones in the quarter, nearly half the figure from the previous quarter, suggesting the release of the Z10 handset -- a touchscreen device launched this year and aimed at competing against Apple and Android rivals -- has failed.

But the company said that 40 million new iOS/Android users have registered over the past 60 days to use its messaging system.

In September, the company announced that it was laying off 4,500 staff -- or one third of its global workforce -- after losing \$965 million in its second quarter.

BlackBerry helped create a culture of mobile users glued to smartphones, but lost its luster as many moved to iPhones or devices using Google's Android software.

BlackBerry still has some 70 million subscribers worldwide, but most of these are using older handsets, with newer devices on the BlackBerry 10 platform unveiled in January failing to gain traction.

Technology analyst Jack Gold said the partnership with Foxconn should help BlackBerry "both financially by lowering costs and with new designs for the emerging markets where they still have a major presence."

BRIEFS:



Lamborghini Huracán LP 610-4 : As you suspect, the 610 references the car's horsepower, though as usual, it's metric, so the American horsepower figure is closer to 600. Nevertheless, the 5.2-liter V-10 that produces the power, which arrives at a screaming 8,250 rpm, now benefits from direct fuel injection and also generates 480 pound-feet of torque. In the Huracán's 3,140-pound chassis, that 600-horsepower V-10 is, as predicted, matched to a seven-speed dual-clutch transmission and capable of accelerating you to 62 mph in just 3.2 seconds--a figure that's likely to brush against the 3.0-second mark in the real world when the measure is 60 mph. Keeping your foot to the floor, 124 mph arrives in 9.9 seconds, and, if you have the nerves--and the nearly limitless closed course--for it, the Huracán will carry on to a top speed of more than 202 mph. But perhaps just as important as the Huracán's performance figures is the car's appearance. (see picture)



Winter Solstice: The Sun Pauses Today

Today marks one of the four major way stations on the Earth's annual journey around the sun. Because of the tilt in the Earth's axis of rotation, the sun appears to rise and fall in our sky over the course of a year. It's not the sun itself moving, but the Earth moving relative to the sun. The Earth's axis currently points in a northerly direction close to the second-magnitude star Polaris, also known as the Pole Star. Everything in the sky, including the sun, appears to revolve around this almost fixed point in the sky. The sun stops moving southward, pauses, and then starts moving northward. This pause is called the "solstice," from the Latin words "sol" for "sun" and "sisto" for "stop." Similarly, on June 21 the sun stops moving northward and starts moving southward. These four dates have been extremely important to humanity since we first started to grow crops 10,000 years ago.



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Obama: No negotiation over raising debt ceiling

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama refused Friday to negotiate with Republicans over raising the debt ceiling and declared he does not think they would be "crazy enough" to revisit such a tactic.

Top Republicans have said they will not increase US borrowing authority without extracting spending cuts from the administration, raising the specter of a new bruising fiscal battle in the coming months just as Congress managed to come together in December and finally pass a budget agreement.

But Obama, who has endured several fights over US borrowing authority in recent years, including one that shut down the government for 16 days in October, appeared eager to head off such a confrontation.

"I can't imagine that, having seen this possible daylight breaking when it comes to co-operation in Congress, that folks are thinking about plunging us back into the kinds of brinksmanship and governance by crisis that has done us so much harm over the last couple of years," Obama said during a White House press conference.

"To repeat: the debt ceiling is raised simply to pay bills that we have already accrued. It is not something that is a negotiating tool, it's not leverage," Obama said.

"It's the responsibility of Congress. It's part of doing their job, (and) I expect them to do their job."

House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan, a lead author of the budget deal that passed Congress this week, set the debt ceiling discussion rolling on Sunday when he described the upcoming borrowing authority issue in confrontational terms.

"We don't want nothing out of this debt limit. We're going to decide what it is we can accomplish out of this debt-limit fight," he told Fox News Sunday.

Obama, who praised Ryan for crafting the budget agreement, said he hoped to "have a constructive conversation of the sort that we just had in resolving the budget issues."

But as for revisiting a fight over the debt ceiling, "I've got to assume folks aren't crazy enough to start that thing all over again," the president said.

The US debt currently stands at \$17.2 trillion. After a bruising legislative battle, Congress in October extended the debt ceiling through February 7, amid fears the world's largest economy could default on its debt.

On Thursday, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew wrote lawmakers warning that the United States will run out of money to pay its bills by early March if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling again.

Girl, 13, arrested at Schiphol for smuggling cocaine

THE HAGUE - A 13-year-old girl has been arrested at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport after she was found to be carrying

around 100 grammes of cocaine in her body cavities, website nu.nl reported on Friday.

A military police spokesman told the website she is the youngest person arrested at the airport for drug smuggling.

The girl was travelling from the Caribbean with an 18-year-old youth, nu.nl said. The youth was not carrying drugs and was released after questioning.

The girl was picked out during a so-called 100% control of all passengers on her flight. According to the Telegraaf she came from Curacao and has now been placed under the control of social services.

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Mexican president signs law opening oil industry

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Mexico's President Enrique Pena Nieto on Friday signed a controversial law opening the country's oil industry to foreign investment for the first time since it was nationalized in 1938.

Pena Nieto signed the law at a ceremony in the National Palace after it passed Congress and a majority of Mexican states voted to ratify it.

The reforms are aimed at attracting foreign investment with profit- and production-sharing contracts that would break the 75-year-old oil monopoly held by state oil company Pemex.

Oil output has dropped from 3.4 million barrels per day in 2004 to 2.5 million today, and Mexico imports half of the gasoline it consumes.

The government hopes to use foreign and national investment to reverse that trend, increasing production, expanding refining capacity and drilling for shale gas and deep-water oil deposits.

The reforms encountered few obstacles in the Congress and state legislature because it had the support of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) and the conservative National Action Party (PAN).

But they sparked protests on the left, led by the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), which called the legislation a national betrayal.

Many in Mexico look back with pride at the expulsions of foreign companies by president Lazaro Cardenas in 1938.

Dow, S&P 500 close at new records on strong GDP growth

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks bolted to new records Friday after the Commerce Department reported that third-quarter US gross domestic product grew much faster than previously estimated.

At the closing bell, the Dow Jones Industrial Average advanced 60.75 points (0.38 percent) to 16,239.83, a new record.

The S&P 500 rose 9.86 (0.54 percent), also a new record, while the tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index added 46.61 (1.15 percent) to 4,104.74.

Analysts said investors were cheered after the Commerce Department raised its estimate for third-quarter gross domestic product growth to an annual rate of 4.1 percent, from 3.6 percent.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

S	I	T	E	S		S	P	Y
O	L	I	V	E	R	S	I	R
R	O	M	A	N	O	O	X	E
E	V	E		T	A	R	O	T
R	E	D	S		S	E	T	H
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C	L	I	M	B		E	B	B
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D	A	V	E		E	A	T	S
D	I	E	S		F	I	R	I
E	R	R			D	A	N	E

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 School records numbers
4 Scarer's shout
7 Ga.'s neighbor
10 "Cry ___ River" (2 wds.)
11 Figure wrongly
12 Butterfly catching device
13 Bowling target
14 Opposed to
16 Pedro's nap
18 Regulation
19 Oz's man's metal
20 Futile
21 Button-down garment
24 Laid bathroom floor
25 Tijuana treat
26 Cage
27 Dazzled
28 Furious
32 Fastens figure skates (2 wds.)

- 34 Morning dampness
35 Sportage manufacturer
36 Artist Yoko
37 Mine stuff
38 Tiny drink
39 Risk
40 Moses, to Gwyneth

DOWN

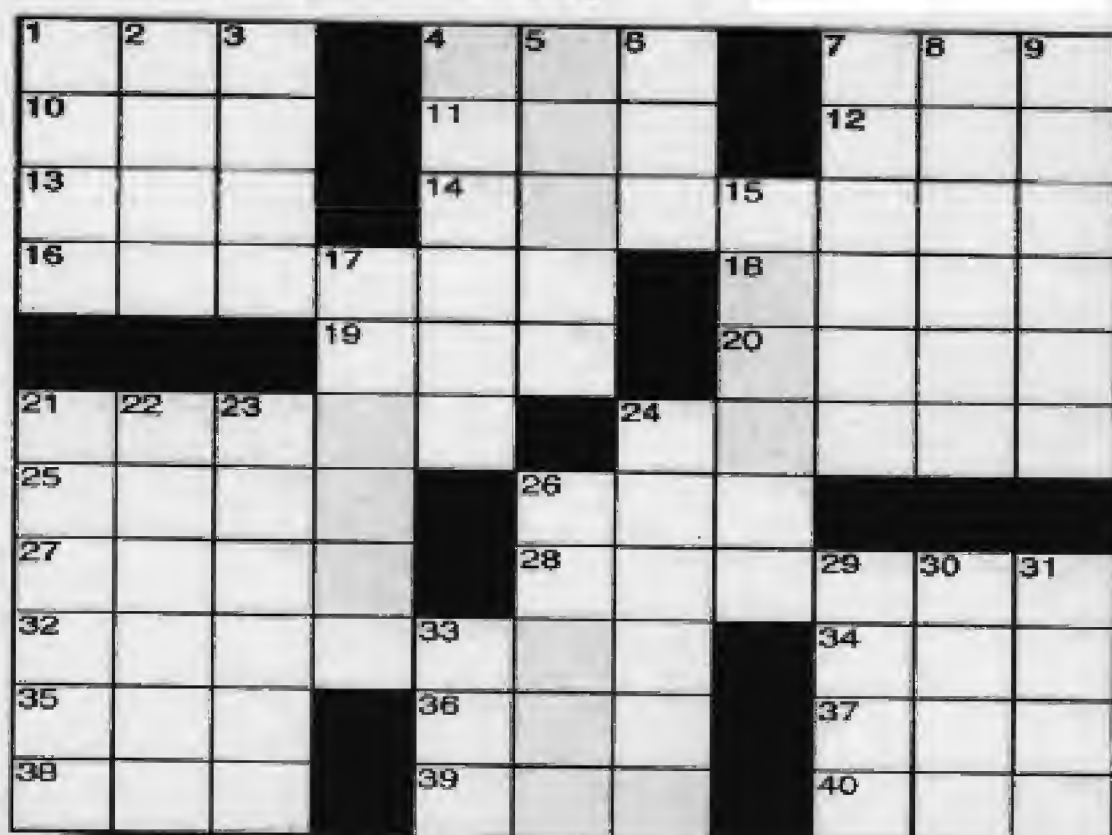
- 1 Rascals
2 Famed ocean liner (abbr.)
3 Level-headed
4 Get lost! (2

see our website:

www.themorningnewsaruba.com

- 5 Choir accompaniment
6 "...man ___ mouse?" (2 wds.)
7 Yearly
8 Howard of "Gone with the Wind"
9 Heed
15 Composer Berlin
17 Walked with confidence

- 21 Tracks game
22 Aloha State
23 Polar feature
24 Oolong server
26 Ex-plum
29 Altar vows (2 wds.)
30 Pianist Peter ___
31 Dancer Verdon
33 Weeper's wail



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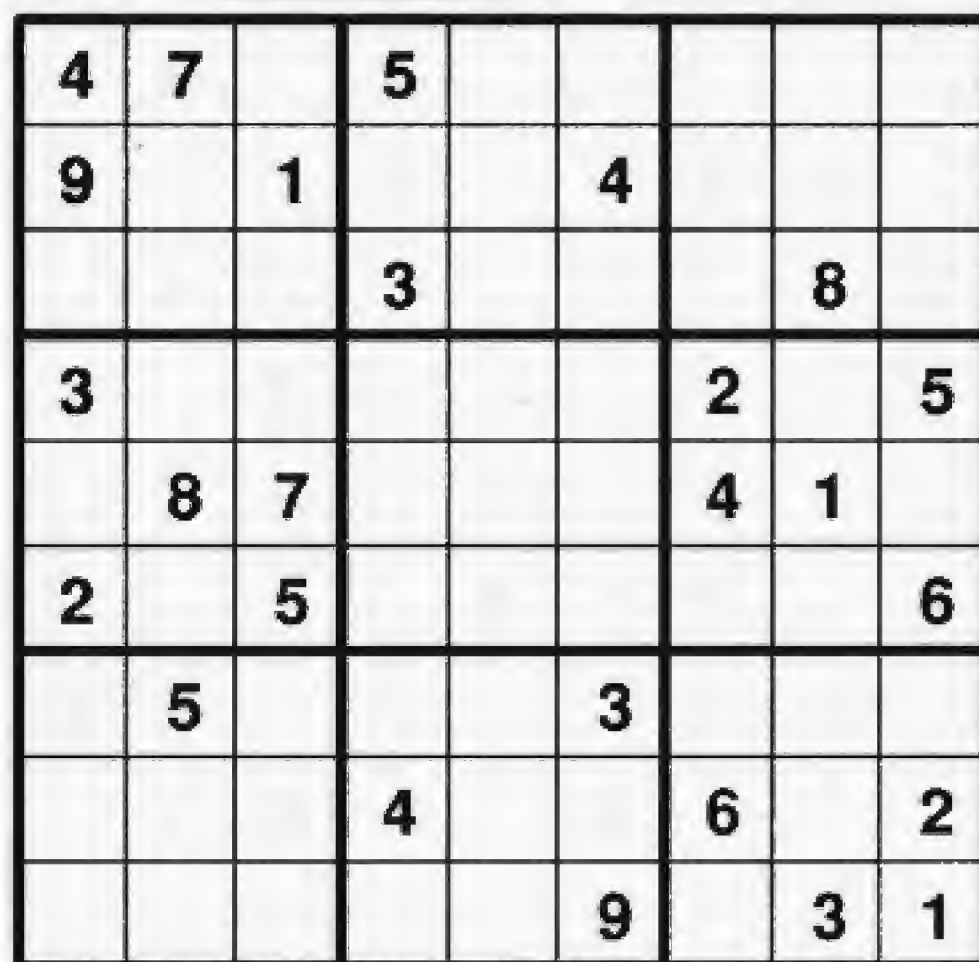
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

1	6	4	8	5	2	7	9	3
2	5	9	8	4	7	6	3	1
3	7	6	3	8	1	2	5	4
4	8	9	1	6	2	5	7	3
5	1	7	9	3	6	4	8	2
6	2	3	7	9	8	1	6	5
7	8	1	2	6	5	9	3	7
8	2	5	7	9	8	1	6	4
9	3	6	2	1	5	4	7	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

O Condominiums

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Aruba's most successful developers of secure, superior communities for both the permanent and part time resident market, will soon break ground on what they consider their most exclusive project to date. Known for 16 years of unmatched quality and service, the Cas Bon people are proud to unveil their new pet

project: O Condominiums. This is the same company which developed the innovative Gold Coast Villas community in Malmok.

Renowned for reliable construction, developers of O Condominiums consider the boutique community will be the "jewel in the crown" of the nine projects they have successfully completed and

maintain. It is only three stories and twenty luxurious units, of which 14 will be oceanfront, the remainder, ocean view. Sizes range from one bedroom condominiums with a bath and a half to three-bedrooms, each bedroom with its own bath, and an additional guest half/bath. The designs include a family entertainment room that will

be specially fitted with electronic and Internet connections and outlets enabling a state-of-the-art-home theater. An important aspect of this singular facility is owners have various options to customize kitchens and fixtures to their particular tastes and standards.

Each apartment sports an extremely spacious 35 square meter covered terrace overlooking the sea. Windows will be double-paned and doors

have weather stripping to insure less cost on air-conditioning, which is integrated into construction. Homeowners will have input into the finishing they prefer in the kitchen and other rooms, to customize your condominium to your taste. Public amenities will include an elegant pool deck, concierge

services, lounge area, BBQ station, fitness room, assigned parking, additional outside storage for bicycles and personal items, and 24-hour security. A quiet, secluded section of Eagle beach is only a few steps from the front door.

O Condominiums officially opened the doors of their sales office onsite at Eagle Beach on December 24. Interested parties can inspect the project in a spacious plot right next to the gourmet Screaming Eagle restaurant. The project is directed towards discerning clients seeking a top quality property on Aruba in an ideal, tranquil, beachfront location. Prospective property owners will find the Cas Bon people enjoy an exceptional reputation on Aruba for excellence and reliability.

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-- Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable. La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a

one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list al-

lows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unob-

structed view, recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view

(or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba.

Reservations can be made by calling 586- 0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latrattoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.



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Football: Bayern "against an entire country" in Club World Cup final

MARRAKECH (AFP) - Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola has admitted that his team will face a hostile reception in Saturday's Club World Cup final against Raja Casablanca in Marrakech.

Raja are playing in the competition as champions of the host nation and created a huge shock by beating South American champions Atletico Mineiro in the semi-finals on Wednesday.

European champions Bayern are the stronger side on paper, but Guardiola has been impressed with Raja's performances thus far and they will have a large and passionate support behind them in the final.

"I don't think Atletico Mineiro underestimated Raja Casablanca. Raja were simply very good, very intense," said Guardiola, whose team are aiming to win a fifth trophy in the calendar year to go with their triumphs in the Champions League, Bundesliga, German Cup and European Super Cup.

"People thought that the European and South American teams would both win and get to the final, but there are always teams that play with heart and you could see from the way they celebrated. We will be playing against an entire country that will be there helping them."

Before beating Atletico Mineiro, Raja got the better of Oceanian champions Auckland City and also saw off Monterrey of Mexico after extra-time in the quarter-finals.

"They are a talented team and well organised in defence. I am impressed by their quality and my players know that."

"We will be the away side. I was at the semi-final between



Raja and Atletico Mineiro and, after leaving the stadium, within 10 or 15 minutes the people were on the streets going crazy. I realised how important this is for the country.

"The king of Morocco will be there, which shows how important this is. It is good to play in such an atmosphere," added the former Barcelona boss, who won the Club World Cup with the Catalans in 2009 and 2011 but knows the tournament does not boast a great reputation in Europe.

"This is a very important competition for me. It is the third time I have been here representing a European team and each one I have viewed as a unique opportunity in my life."

No African team has ever won the Club World Cup, and Raja are only the second team from the continent to reach the final after Tout Puissant Mazembe of the Democratic Republic of Congo, who lost to Inter Milan in 2010.

Raja's Tunisian coach Faouzi Benzarti, who was only appointed days before the competition started, is hopeful that his players can spring what would be a huge surprise.

"Of course Bayern are a great club, I think even the biggest in the world at the moment. But we will try to exploit

their little weaknesses and take them by surprise," he said before adding that trying to contain Ballon d'Or candidate Franck Ribery holds no great fears.

"We were asked the same question about Ronaldinho before our match against Atletico Mineiro... Ribery is a brilliant player, but we will try to press him whenever he gets the ball."

"Every team that plays in the European Champions League has great players and, for Bayern, Ribery is just one of them."

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BRIEFS:



COPPER MOUNTAIN (AFP) - Aimee Fuller of Great Britain competes during qualifying for the womens FIS Snowboard Slopestyle World Cup at U.S. Snowboarding and Freeskiing Grand Prix on Friday in Copper Mountain, Colorado.



BELGRADE (AFP) - Brazil's Fernanda da Silva (L) vies with Denmark's Anne Mette (R) during the Women's Handball World Championship semi final match between Brazil and Denmark at the Kombank Arena in Belgrade yesterday.




MUNICH (AFP) - Istanbul's Sinan Guler (L) and FC Bayern Basketball's Yassin Idibihi (C) vie during the Euroleague group C basketball match Bayern Munich Basketball vs Galatasaray Istanbul in Munich, southern Germany, yesterday. Bayern Munich Basketball won the match 88-68.

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NBA: Thunder roll past Bulls to remain unbeaten at home

OKLAHOMA CITY (AFP) - Kevin Durant scored 32 points and Russell Westbrook added 20 on Thursday as Oklahoma City beat Chicago 107-95 to remain the only NBA team with a perfect home record this season.

The Thunder have won all 13 of their home games so far this campaign.

With their eighth straight victory, and their 16th in 17 games, they improved to 21-4 overall, the best record in the NBA.

Joakim Noah had 23 points and 12 rebounds for the injury-depleted Bulls, who dropped their fourth straight decision.

Taj Gibson scored 16 points and D.J. Augustin added 15 for the Bulls, who were without Luol Deng and Kirk Hinrich



and saw Jimmy Butler depart early with a right ankle injury.

British forward Deng sat out with a sore Achilles tendon that had seen him miss four other games this month.

Guard Hinrich missed his

fourth straight game with a back injury.

The Bulls are now 3-11 since losing former NBA Most Valuable Player Derrick Rose to a knee injury that required surgery last month.

Tourists to spend \$10 billion during Brazil World Cup

BRASILIA (AFP) - Foreign and Brazilian tourists are expected to spend \$10.4 billion during next year's World Cup, more than the public funds invested for staging the event, the Brazilian tourism board said Friday.

"These are important resources which fuel economic sectors of all Brazilian regions, from aviation to the informal economy," said Flavio Dino, president of state tourism board Embratur, in a statement titled "Mega-events are worth it."

He recalled that the Confederations Cup, a 15-day dry run last June for the World Cup, injected \$311 million in the Brazilian economy.

It was staged in the middle of massive nation-wide street protests in which hundreds of thousands of Brazilians de-

manded a better quality of life, an end to corruption and railed against the high cost of staging the World Cup and the 2016 Rio Summer Olympics.

A month later, World Youth Day, a major Catholic youth fest held in the presence of Pope Francis in Rio, injected another \$502 million into the economy.

And Dino said that even if revenues do not totally cover investments for major events, it was important to note that one out of three reals invested by the federal government for the World Cup is disbursed to upgrade urban mobility projects in major cities.

He added that apart from immediate gains, events like the World Cup and World Youth Day give Brazil a visibility that would normally take "decades" to obtain.

Boxing: Ex-world champ John retires after defeat



JAKARTA (AFP) - Indonesian boxing star Chris John said Friday he was retiring two weeks after being dethroned as the world featherweight champion in his first ever loss in an astonishing career. Known as "The Dragon", John won the World Boxing Association featherweight champion crown in 2003 and successfully defended it 18 times. But the 34-year-old finally lost the title to South African boxer Simpiwe Vetyeka in a December 6 bout in Perth, Western Australia, throwing in the towel after six rounds. During more than 15 years in the ring, John -- who learnt to box using tatty gloves in a rural village -- fought 52 bouts and racked up 48 wins, three draws and just one loss. He would not go into details about his retirement plans Friday but in an interview with AFP in April, John said he hoped to train future Indonesian champions after his own professional career came to an end. The boxer, who has Chinese origins and was raised as a Catholic in the mainly Muslim Southeast Asian country of 250 million, said he wanted to scout and train young talent for Dragon Fire. There are few well-known Indonesians at the top level of boxing, and John was just the country's third world champion.

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